Medical Officer's Annual Report
for 1894.

To the
Chairman & Members of the
Beeston District Council.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1894.

Bessbrook, Newry
~~Feb.~~ Jan. 1st/95.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen.

In compliance with the General order of the Local Government Board I present you with the following report on the Sanitary condition of the District during the past year.

I estimate the population of Bessbrook on August 1st/94 to have been 8000.

Births & Death-rates.

During the year there have been

244 births & 100 deaths as against
221 " & 108 " in 1893 &
224 " & 106 " in 1892.

This gives a death-rate of 12.5 per 1000 as against 14.2 per 1000 in 1893, & a birth-rate of 30.5 per 1000 as against 29.1 per 1000 in 1893.

Classification of Diseases.

The deaths were classed under the following heads:-

	1893.	1894.
Small-pox	0.	0.
Measles	1.	9.
Scarlatina	0.	0.
Diphtheria	1.	1.
Croup	0.	0.
Whooping cough	7.	0.
Typhoid fever	0.	1.
Enteric fever	1.	1.
Diarrhoea & dysentery	10.	4.
Erysipelas	0.	1.
Puerperal fever	0.	2.
Phthisis	11.	14.
Bronchitis, pneumonia & pleurisy	16.	13.
Heart disease	13.	12.
All other diseases & injuries	48.	42
	108	100

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Ages at which death took place.

Tabulated as follows:-

	1893	1894.
Under 1 year.	39.	20.
1 year & under 5 years.	11.	17.
5 years " " 15 "	4.	7.
15 " " " 25 "	5.	2.
25 " " " 65 "	25.	33.
65 " & upwards.	24.	21.
	108.	100.

Zymotic death-rate.

The number of deaths from Zymotic diseases was 16 giving a death-rate from this cause of 2. per 1000 as against 2.63 for the year 1893.

Low Infant death-rate

It is noticeable that the Infant mortality for the year 1894 is only 20 as against 39 for 1893, corresponding to a death-rate of 2.5 per 1000 as against 5.13 per 1000.

During the year there have been 30 cases of Infectious disease notified - tabulated as follows:-

Notification of Infectious diseases.

	1894.	1893.
Typhoid fever.	9.	1.
Scarlet fever.	3.	3.
Puerperal fever.	4.	0.
Continued fever.	1.	0.
Diphtheria.	10.	15.
Croup.	1.	1.
Erysipelas	2.	11.
	30.	31

This compares favourably with 1893 when 31 cases were reported.

Cases of Typhoid fever.

All the cases of Typhoid fever with one exception occurred within a period of 14 days during the end of October & beginning of November, that exception being the case of a boy who contracted the disease from his brother in January last, in which case, unfortunately, the disease ended fatally. In the remaining eight cases,

I could not, in spite of the most careful investigation, find any cause for the outbreak. The cases originated in different parts of the parish, in people working at different trades, & in houses the sanitary arrangements of which were good. Further the milk had been obtained from different sources, & with one exception, Nottingham water was supplied. The exception to which I allude was a case occurring in Derby Street where twelve houses are dependent on one well, the water of which is not above suspicion. Apart from this fact, however, it does not seem desirable that so many houses should be supplied from one well, & I should strongly suggest that Nottingham water be laid on. All these typhoid fever cases were of a mild type, made good recoveries, & further, I am glad to say, that by the help of careful isolation & the liberal use of disinfectants - supplied in most cases by the Board - the disease did not spread to any other inmate of the different households.

Diphtheria. You will notice 10 cases of diphtheria have been notified during the year. These again were, generally speaking, of a very mild type. Three of them originated at the Cadge Farm, & as grave sanitary defects were discovered I instructed the Sanitary Inspector to interview the owners (the Midland Railway Company) with regard to the necessary alterations. These have since been effected. The fatal diphtheritic case occurred in January last, the infection having in all probability been directly contracted from the patient's sister whose death took place the previous month.

Scarlet fever. The three cases of Scarlet fever were imported from surrounding districts, & by careful isolation & subsequent disinfection were prevented from spreading.

Measles

During December measles were very prevalent & owing to the severe weather were in many instances complicated by serious lung affections, which, I regret to say, led to nine deaths being registered from that disease.

Bakehouses, cow sheds & slaughter houses.

In company with the Sanitary Inspector (Mr Walker) I have on two occasions inspected all the bakehouses, slaughter houses & cowsheds & am glad to report that with very few exceptions the owners understand the necessity for cleanliness in their surroundings.

Ventilating shafts.

At my suggestion your sanitary committee has erected four or five new ventilating shafts in places where offensive odours had been cause of complaint. There is still room, however, for improvement in the ventilation of our sewers, & I hope from time to time that more of these shafts may be erected.

Overflow of sewage matter in Hounslow Road.

I should like to call the attention of your sanitary committee to the overflow of sewage matter at the Hounslow Road end of the "City". This has to find its way along an open ditch running down the side of Hounslow Road into the Pasture Dyke which is itself already in anything but a wholesome condition. Fortunately this occurs but rarely & must be remedied.

Dejmar & Thyra Groves.

I regret to say that Dejmar & Thyra Groves off the Queens Road are still in a condition which may be described as not only unsightly but positively injurious to health. This matter, I understand, is being attended to, & I must strongly urge its speedy completion.

Yards in Regent Street.

I should also wish to draw attention to the ~~yard~~ condition of the yards at the back of houses in Upper Regent Street. These are unpaved, the gulleys in many cases are broken & otherwise imperfect, the alleys are

not improved by a number of ducks & fowls running loose & converting the yard into a state of unutterable misery. The gutters have been repaired, but I think that portion of the yards in the immediate vicinity of the back doors would be greatly improved by asphalting or paving, & further that all ducks or fowls be kept in pens.

Scarcity of water.

Owing to the unprecedented drought of 1893 many of the wells supplying houses on the Chilwell Road became dry & the inmates suffered considerably from the scarcity of water. We thought it necessary in the case of one long row of houses (Nos 88 to 114 Chilwell Road) to insist on Nottingham water being introduced, a boon which I feel sure the occupants will greatly appreciate.

For particulars of the visits made in consequence of notification of disease or private complaints, & of the work done during the year, I may be allowed to refer you to my Monthly Reports & the Medical Officer's Journal.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I think we may congratulate ourselves on having an exceptionally low death-rate & high birth-rate, a combination of circumstances that shows that the efforts of the Sanitary Committee in the past have not been fruitless.

I beg to thank you for the kind attention you have always paid to my reports & suggestions & remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully

Frank Otterer M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

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(A) TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1894, in the Urban District of Beeston, Notts District.

classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (See note 4 on back of sheet.) (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.) (a)	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined Ages. At all ages. (b)	Under 1 year. (c)	1 and under 5. (d)	5 and under 15. (e)	15 and under 25. (f)	25 and under 65. (g)	65 and upwards. (h)	(i)	1 Smallpox.	2 Scarlatina.	3 Diphtheria.	4 Membranous Croup.	5 Fevers. Typhus.	6 Enteric or Typhoid.	7 Continued	8 Relapsing	9 Puerperal.	10 Cholera.	11 Erysipelas.	12 Measles.	13 Whooping Cough.	14 Diarrhœa and Dysentery	15 Rheumatic Fever.	16 Ague.	17 Phthisis.	18 Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	19 Heart Disease.	20 Injuries.	21 All Other Diseases.	22 Total.
Beeston	100	20	17	7	2	33	21.	Under 5			1.									9.		2.			2.	4.	2	3	18	41
								5 upwds.						1.	1.		2		1.			2.			12.	9.	10	1.	20	59.
								Under 5																						
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Totals								Under 5																						
								5 upwds.																						

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality. *See Note 5 on back.*

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.								Under 5																						
								5 upwds.																						
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.								Under 5																						
								5 upwds.																						

NOTES ON TABLE B.

(See also Notes on back of Table A.)

NOTE 1. The present *Table B.* is concerned with population, births, and sickness (not with mortality) in the district or division to which the Table relates.

2. As stated in the heading of Col. *(a)*, *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the new cases of sickness in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmaries, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received, are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

3. *Comments on any unequal incidence of notifiable disease upon the several localities, and considerations as to the local incidence of consumption and other prevalent diseases, should be made in the text of the Report.*

W B & L (555v)—46214—10500-12-94